



## 23rd Annual EMS Symposium



This issue of RESPONSE: EMS ALASKA includes the schedule for the 1998 State EMS Symposium. This year's event will be held at the Egan Center, in Anchorage, on November 12, 13, and 14. The hosting hotel is the Hotel Captain Cook where the special conference rate is \$80 per night (single or double). The toll free reservation line for the Hotel Captain Cook is 800-843-1950. A shuttle bus service will be provided to and from the conference site during normal conference hours.

As you can see from the schedule, this year's symposium should be both entertaining and educational. We have many new and innovative speakers attending this year's event and welcome back several others who have made their marks on Alaska EMS. This year we are including offerings Saturday afternoon during the Skills Competition. Many of last year's attendees expressed interest in presentations at this time.

### Pre-Symposium Workshops

There are several high quality pre-symposium workshops from which to choose. These classes provide an opportunity to learn about a subject in more detail than is possible during the 90-minute presentations found on Friday and Saturday.

On Wednesday, November 11, we are offering a one-day *Rural EMS Management Workshop*. This workshop will be held at the Anchorage Regional Fire Training Center.

Thursday, November 12, we have two full day sessions and four half-day sessions. The *BTLS Access* class is being offered and presented at the Anchorage Regional Fire Training Center. Because this class involves extrication practice in the afternoon, **participants will need to have "turn-out" gear or at a minimum – boots, gloves, long-sleeves, (or coveralls), head and eye protection.** The class is limited to 16 participants and an instructor session will be held from 1:30 – 5:00 on Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at the Egan Center.

We are also offering a one-day *EMS/Hospital Response Training for Weapons of Mass Destruction*. This class is on Thursday, November 12th at the Egan Convention Center. In addition, included as pre-symposium offerings, are four half-day sessions. They are *Domestic Violence*, *Fine Tuning Your Presentation & Classroom Skills*, *Pharmacology for the Prehospital Practitioner*,

and a *Moulage* class.

### Opening Session

You don't want to miss this year's opening session. As we introduced last year at the opening session, we will announce the nominees and winners of many of the Governor's EMS awards. This will provide an opportunity for award winners and nominees to be recognized by their peers and colleagues during Symposium.

### General Session

This year's general session will be presented by Martin Nemiroff, MD. Dr. Nemiroff is familiar to Alaskan audiences being previously assigned as a Flight Surgeon at the U. S. Coast Guard station on Kodiak Island. He recently retired from the U. S. Public Health Service where he was last assigned as Flight Surgeon and Senior Medical Officer at the U. S. Coast Guard Integrated Support Command in Alameda, California. Throughout his Public Health Service career, he continued his research interests in cold water near-drowning and hypothermia. This work has resulted in over forty publications, numerous teaching films, chapters and books. Early in his medical career, he was a medical/legal officer for a major university hospital. He has appeared many times in court discussing legal liabilities, particularly as they related to drownings. Dr. Nemiroff says that seventy-five percent of all drownings involve litigation of some sort. Most recently his research on cold water immersion victims was on recovery and resuscitation of Golden Gate Bridge jumpers in San Francisco, California.

An Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Publication

Tony Knowles, Governor  
Karen Perdue, Commissioner

## RESPONSE: EMS Alaska

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RESPONSE: EMS ALASKA

P.O. Box 110616

Juneau, AK 99811-0616

(907) 465-3027

(907) 465-4101 (fax)

[http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/ems/ems\\_home.htm](http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/ems/ems_home.htm)

## INJURY PREVENTION TRACK



This year's Injury Prevention Track will combine injury prevention information with the tools needed to make it happen in your community. Injury is still the leading cause of death for Alaska's children and youth, and young Alaskans will be the focus of this year's forum. The sessions will be geared toward anyone involved in health care, health education, or just interested in participating in the flourishing field of injury prevention. Participants will learn:

- *about bike safety, dogbite prevention, pedestrian safety, child safety seats, water safety, teen driving, playground safety, and being safe at work*
- *how to design, market and evaluate an injury prevention program*
- *about programs specially designed for the Alaska population*
- *how to get the community on your side*
- *how to talk to parents, children, and even teens*
- *how to get the most out of your sponsors*
- *how to rally public opinion*
- *anticipatory guidance*
- *and much, much more*

### CME and CEU credit will be available for participants.

On Friday, November 13, 1998, Providence Alaska Medical Center will sponsor the Safe Kids Luncheon for those who are active or interested in child safety issues. Martin

tarod

Champion, will talk about safety on the Iditarod trail. During the luncheon, awards will be presented to those who have made a significant contribution to Injury Prevention in Alaska. The luncheon will be limited to the first fifty pre-registrants. You won't want to miss this exciting luncheon!



## Clinical Track

My name is Scott Dull, MD., and I am a new physician in the Emergency Department at Providence Alaska Medical Center in Anchorage. I will be sharing the State EMS Director duties with the current director, Dave Ingraham, MD. My first job is to help organize the clinical track with Lyn Dagley, RN. I am very excited about how things are shaping up and hope you all agree that we have planned a stimulating and informative track.

We have assembled a mixture of national and local experts ready to discuss problems that are common to emergency departments as well as issues unique to Alaska. Lecture topics are not limited to EMS issues, but will prove to be of interest to emergency and non-emergency physicians, mid-level practitioners, and nurses.

There will be a complimentary dinner buffet (limited to physicians who work in emergency settings) on Friday evening, sponsored by the state chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians. A board member from ACEP

## Other Highlights

### Rural EMS Management Workshop



**Who:** Volunteer EMS and Rescue Captains, or EMS Managers from Level I and Level II communities (small villages and subregional centers).

**What:** A workshop dedicated to the needs of EMS Managers from rural Alaska.

**When:** Pre-symposium workshop, Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 – 5:00.

**Where:** Anchorage Regional Fire Training Center, 1140 Airport Heights Road.

**Why:** As funding becomes scarcer, training requirements increase, and the culture of volunteerism changes on a national level, the task of managing a rural EMS squad becomes increasingly difficult. ACEMS has recognized the need for increased management training for rural EMS providers. It is hoped that this workshop will be the first in a continuous series of training for volunteer EMS and Rescue Captains.

Some of the topics that will be covered include: recruiting and retention of volunteers; incentive programs; relationships with local governments; professionalism; and system development. There will be ample opportunity during the workshop to address specific questions from the attendees. Attendance is limited to members of rural volunteer EMS squads, so we can focus on the specific needs of these Rescue Captains.

Our presenters include Fire Chief Dewey Whetsell, of Cordova Volunteer Fire Department. He has been associated with EMS for over 20 years, a fire chief since 1975, and is currently certified as an EMT-III. Chief Whetsell has conducted numerous presentations in the area of personnel management and is a dynamic and informative presenter. He will present in the morning on personnel development.

Mike Motti, EMS Coordinator for Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC), will present system development issues in the afternoon. Mike has over 25 years experience in volunteer EMS. He is an EMT-III, Wilderness EMT Instructor, and Program Director for the SEARHC Air Medical Service.

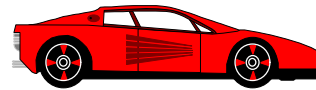
If you have any further questions, please call Mike Motti at 966-8771 or Doreen Risley at 465-8633.

### Hotel Reservations

The hosting hotel is the Hotel Captain Cook where the conference rate is \$80 per night. The toll free reservation line for the hotel is 800-843-1950. Those needing hotel reservations are encouraged to contact the Captain Cook as soon as possible and before October 28, 1998, to guarantee the special symposium rate. Information regarding the shuttle bus service to and from

the conference site will be available at hotel check-in.

### Parking



The Egan Center is located on 5th Avenue between E and F Streets and there are many convenient options for parking nearby. There are approximately **800 free parking spaces** within a five-block radius of the Egan Center. Monday through Friday, between 9am and 6pm you may park for two hours on a block. On Saturday and Sunday, free parking is permitted on the street for the entire day. Parking and garages nearby include:

JC Penney Garage (6th and Fifth Street)

\$8.00 all day (50 cents/hour)

open: 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

6th Avenue Parking Garage (enter on H Street)

\$5.00 all day (75 cents/hour)

Open 24 hours

5th Avenue Parking Garage (5th and B Street)

\$5.00 all day (50 cents/hour)

Open 24 hours

Dimond Parking Lots

Weekdays by the hour

Saturday, \$2.00 all day

Hotel Captain Cook Parking Garage

\$10.00 all day in garage adjacent to the hotel,  
(includes in/out privileges)

\$5.00 all day, 5<sup>th</sup> & K St

### Airfare

**Alaska Air-**  
offering dis-  
airfare for  
the Sympo-



**lines** is  
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They will give **5%** discount on all published excursion fares except for companion fares, "V" inventory or other promotional offers. They will discount **10%** from YAS booked in "Y" inventory. All fare rules apply. Request code **CMR2927**.

## American Heart Association Community Training Centers

Are you, as an American Heart Association Instructor, aligned with a Community Training Center (CTC)? Listed below you will find a list of CTCs for the state of Alaska. It is your responsibility to call one of these phone numbers and register with a training center. The AHA office no longer has BLS Heartsaver, Healthcare Provider, ACLS, or PALS cards available, you can only get your course cards through a CTC.

Aurora North Academy Phone: 907-264-2090	Anchorage, AK George Angus
Central Peninsula Hospital Phone: 907-262-8172	Soldotna, AK Janet Randa
Interior Region EMS Council Phone: 907-456-3978	Fairbanks, AK Leo Zeek
Ketchikan General Hospital Phone: 907-225-5171 ext. 7425	Ketchikan, AK Monica Schulz
Norton Sound Health Corp. Phone: 907-443-3311	Nome, AK Michael Owens
Providence Health System Alaska Phone: 907-261-3011	Anchorage, AK Judy Kyle
Bayside Fire Department and Providence Kodiak Island Medical Center Phone: 907-486-4536 Phone: 907-486-9517	Kodiak, AK Bob Himes Christy Kinter
Southeast Region EMS Council Phone: 907-747-8005	Sitka, AK Michelle Twitty

There will be an Instructor Trainer Course during the Annual State EMS Symposium. For more information please contact Pam Beale at the AHA/ECC office. The number is 907-929-7800.



## Participate in the 21st Annual All-Alaska EMT Skills Competition

The King Career Center Emergency Services Technology Program and the Alaska Medical Support Team are organizing the All-Alaska EMT Skills Competition. This annual event will be staged on Saturday, November 14th, in the Egan Center.

The organizers of the skills competition will distribute to all teams who pre-register a list of specific criteria by which the teams will be judged, as well as the criteria used for tie breaking. The criteria also will be sent to those organizations requesting them in writing.

Trophies and plaques for the top five teams will be presented at a ceremony during the awards banquet on Saturday, November 14th, at the Egan Center. In addition, prizes will be awarded to the top three teams. Entry forms are contained in this issue, if you have any further questions, please contact Southern Region EMS Council at (907) 562-6449.

### All-Alaska EMT Skills Competition Rules

- Three practical problems will be selected from the EMT-I skills levels.
- Only one team (two members) from each organization may enroll.
- Each team is required to bring its own trauma kit, equipped as the members see fit. Any specialized equipment required for the practical will be furnished by the committee. If it is not possible to bring a kit, please let the committee know in advance and one will be supplied. No books will be allowed.
- There is no entry fee.
- Team must send completed entry blanks before November 2, 1998, so adequate plans may be made for space. Late entries may be accepted on a space available basis.
- Each team is composed of two competitors and one judge. That judge will proctor a team other than the one from his or her service area. The judge may come from an area outside the team's service area. The judge must be certified to at least the EMT-I level.



**It's not too early to begin planning for the 1999 Alaska EMS Symposium!** Next year's event is scheduled to be held in Anchorage from November 11 - 13. **Put it on your calendar now.** Topics and speakers will be largely determined by Symposium evaluations and letters. Let us know your suggestions!



## Upcoming Regional Symposia

### Southeast Region EMS Symposium

March 16 - 19, 1999

(3/16 & 3/17 are pre-symposium classes)

Sitka, Alaska

#### Information:

Southeast Region EMS Council, Inc.

(907)747-8005

serems@ptialaska.net

### Interior Region 4th Annual EMS Symposium

April 15 - 18, 1999

(4/15 & 4/16 are pre-symposium classes)

Fairbanks, Alaska

#### Information:

Interior Region EMS Council, Inc

(907)456-3977

iremesc@alaska.net

## WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION



Do you remember where you were April 19, 1995? It is a day that will live in the memories of the residents of Oklahoma City for many years to come. I'm talking, of course, about the Oklahoma City bombing.

In FY 1997, the Domestic Preparedness initiative was established under the Defense Authorization Bill, commonly called the Nunn-Lugar-Domenici legislation. The federal government recognized that capabilities to respond to terrorist events is limited and in need of improvement. The bill provides funding for the Department of Defense (DOD) to enhance the capability of federal, state and local emergency responders in incidents involving nuclear, biological and chemical terrorism.

A federal interagency team was formed to provide training throughout the United States. They expect to train responders in 120 cities within the next three years. The team is comprised of representatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, Public Health Service and Department of Defense (lead agency). Training, in a train-the-trainer format, was conducted in May of this year in Anchorage.

This year we would like to expand that training throughout the state by providing a one-day pre-symposium workshop designed to train EMS responders and hospital personnel. Many hospital staff members incorrectly assume that victims will arrive at their facilities decontaminated. This is not always the case. You need to be prepared to manage the problem and ensure that the hospital remains a safe environment for everyone.

The training will be held on Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at the You may think that it will never happen here, but I'm

Egan Convention Center from 8 am to 5 pm.

You may think that it will never happen here, but I'm sure Oklahoma City and Tokyo thought the same. It may not be a matter of "if", but "when."

*Doreen Risley, EMS Unit*



## APPOINTMENTS TO ALASKA COUNCIL ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

In January 1998, Governor Knowles appointed Daniel B. Cox to the Alaska Council on Emergency Medical Services (ACEMS). Dan is an EMT-III with the North Slope Borough Fire Department and the Department of Search and Rescue's medevac and critical care air ambulance service in Barrow. Dan fills one of the prehospital emergency care provider positions. Welcome, Dan!

Also in January, the Governor reappointed Charles F. Lean, Steve O'Connor, and Barbara Simonsen to ACEMS. Congratulations to each of you!

Charlie Lean is an EMT-I from Nome, volunteering with the Nome Volunteer Ambulance Service. He is a state Area Management Biologist for the Northwest Arctic and Norton Sound Region. He serves in a consumer position from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District.

Steve O'Connor is an MICP and Firefighter in Soldotna. He is Assistant Fire Chief for Central Emergency Services. He fills the EMS administrator position on ACEMS.

Barb Simonsen is an RN and the Trauma Coordinator for Providence Alaska Medical Center in Anchorage. She also assists with data collection and training for the Alaska Trauma Registry. She is an instructor for the Trauma Nursing Core Course and expanded the program to rural Alaska. Barb fills the ACEMS emergency nurse position.

## NEW ACEMS OFFICERS

Congratulations to the new ACEMS officers, elected at the April 24, 1998 ACEMS meeting:

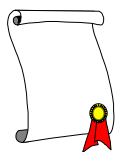
**Charles Lean, Chair**

**Steve O'Connor, Vice-Chair**

**Barbara Simonsen, Officer-at-Large**

And our **very special thanks** to **John Hall, MD, past ACEMS Chair**, who has given so generously of his time,

efforts, and his own funds to travel to Juneau to talk to the Governor and his staff on Boards and Commissions, to the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Social Services, the Director of the Division of Public Health, and to legislators and their aides. He also has spent endless hours in meetings, and has written letters and prepared reports on EMS issues. Dr. Hall has a special gift of summarizing opposing viewpoints and helping a group move to consensus. His wonderful sense of humor has cheered us all!



### EMS Symposium Continuing Education Credits

Continuing education credits for EMTs and Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics, nurses, physicians and physician assistants are being arranged for most of the programs.

### EMS Symposium Special Events

- ◆ There will be a complimentary luncheon for EMS Instructors sponsored by Alaska Regional Hospital on Friday, November 13th, from 12:00 - 1:30. It will be located at Alaska Regional Hospital, 2801 DeBarr Road. You can sign-up to attend on the symposium preregistration form. Space is limited to the first 50.
- ◆ The Twenty-first Annual All Alaska EMT Skills Competition will be held on Saturday afternoon. Once again, the skills competition is being organized by EMT-Instructor Alan Loken and sponsored by the Alaska Medical Support Team. (See page 4 for details)
- ◆ The Twenty-first Annual Governor's EMS Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday evening at the Egan Center. Annual Governor's EMS Awards will be presented to a Consumer/Citizen, Provider, Administrator/Researcher, Nurse (the Melissa Ann Peters Memorial Award), EMS Educator, and a Physician (the Longenbaugh Memorial Award). An Outstanding Ambulance Service award and a \$500 gift certificate from Safety Incorporated also will be presented.

Because of subsidies generously provided by several vendors, the cost for the banquet is only \$21.00. The menu will be fresh spinach salad with mushrooms, bacon bits, pine nuts and raspberry vinaigrette; filet of Alaskan salmon with buttery dill sauce; vegetable; rice; fresh baked dinner rolls with butter; and bread pudding with warm vanilla sauce for dessert. Please indicate any special dietary needs when pre-registering.

### Take Heart Alaska!



The Division of Public Health, Section of Community Health and Emergency Medical Services, along with the Alaska Affiliate of the American Heart Association and others; has been involved in the development of a comprehensive plan aimed at reducing heart disease and stroke (cardiovascular diseases) in Alaska.

"Taken together, heart disease and stroke account for one quarter (25.5%) of Alaskan deaths and is the second leading cause of death in the state" states Matt Anderson, Emergency Medical Services Unit Manager.

The purpose of the Alaska Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Plan is to provide overall guidance to communities, worksites, schools, health care providers, public health leaders and others interested in improving cardiovascular health in Alaska and improving the systems to carry out that mission.

The overall goal of the plan is to "increase heart health among all Alaskans through advocating for individual and community-based commitment to healthy lifestyles and improving access to preventive services." The plan addresses five major issues: 1) Leadership, Coordination, and Advocacy; 2) Alaska Specific Issues; 3) Healthy Lifestyles; 4) Data and Information ; and 5) Public and Professional Education.

"We are looking forward to working with the Emergency Medical Services providers in preventing cardiovascular disease in Alaska. We know many Alaskans are at risk for developing cardiovascular disease because of smoking, sedentary lifestyle, poor diet, high blood pressure and cholesterol, overweight and other factors." says Dr. Catherine Schumacher, Chronic Disease Epidemiologist for the Alaska Division of Public Health . "The EMS system can help increase public awareness about cardiovascular disease prevention in many ways!"

Agencies, organizations and persons interested in working together to promote heart health in Alaska are invited to join a new coalition, **Take Heart Alaska!**

To receive a copy of the Alaska Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Plan or for more information on **Take Heart Alaska!** contact: Patty Owen, Division of Public Health, CHEMS, P.O. Box 110616, Juneau, AK 99811, phone 907-465-3140 or email: [POwen@health.state.ak.us](mailto:POwen@health.state.ak.us).

*Submitted by Patty Owen, Alaska Division of Public Health*

## 23<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL EMS SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

### PRE-SYMPOSIUM WORKSHOPS

#### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

**8:00 AM – 5:00 PM**  
(Management Track)

*Rural EMS Management Workshop*  
Mike Motti, EMT-III, Coordinator  
Location: Anchorage Regional Fire Training Center

#### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12

**8:00 AM – 5:00 PM**  
(BLS Track)

*BTLS Access*  
Brian Davis, EMT-III  
Fairbanks Fire Department  
Paul Delys, Firefighter  
Chena Goldstream Fire Department  
Location: Anchorage Regional Fire Training Center  
**Instructor class will be held Friday afternoon from 1:30 – 5:00.**

**8:00 AM – 5:00 PM**  
(BLS/ALS/Nursing/MD)

*Weapons of Mass Destruction Trng*  
Sponsored by the Anchorage Fire Department

**8:30 AM - 10:00 AM**  
(Injury Prevention)

*Designing and Marketing an Injury Prevention Program*  
Corlis Taylor  
Fairbanks Safe Kids

**8:30 AM – 12:00 PM**  
(BLS Track)

*Domestic Violence*  
Liz Meredith, AWAIC  
Shelly Owens, EMT-II

(Instructor Track)

*Fine Tuning Your Presentation & Classroom Skills*  
Paul Werfel, NREMT-P  
Director, Paramedic Program  
Clinical Instructor in Health Science, SUNY at Stony Brook

**10:30 AM - 12:00 PM**  
(Injury Prevention)

*Evaluating your Injury Prevention Program*  
Sharron Lobaugh  
Injury Prevention Specialist

**12:00 PM – 1:30 PM**

LUNCH

**1:30 PM - 3:00 PM**  
(Injury Prevention)

*Child Safety Seats Made Easy: How to Choose, Install, and/or Reject a Child Safety Seat*  
Gordon Glaser  
Health Program Manager  
Alaska DHSS  
Colleen See, RN  
Juneau Safe Kids, Alaska DHSS

**1:30 PM – 5:00 PM**  
(ALS Track)

*Pharmacology for the Prehospital Practitioner*  
Paul Werfel, NREMT-P

(Instructor Track)

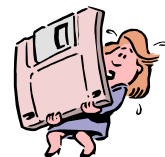
*Moulage*  
Michael F. Dolph  
Program Director  
Bayside Fire Department – Community Training Center  
Kodiak Island, AK

**3:30 PM - 5:00 PM**  
(Injury Prevention)

*Playground Safety: Community's Right to Know*  
Cate Remme  
Alaska Public Information Research Group

### *Tidbits from the Trauma Registry*

***The three-wheeler all-terrain vehicle lives on!*** Ten years after ATV distributors consented to discontinue selling three-wheeler ATV's, Alaskans are still crashing and dying on them. Out of a total of 525 off-road ATV injuries in the trauma registry for five years (1991-1995), 27% were known to have involved a three-wheeler.



The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recommends:

- Young people under the age of 16 should never operate an adult-sized ATV. "For drivers under 16 years of age, there is a 1-in-3 chance of having an ATV-related injury during the average lifespan of the ATV" -- (CPSC). ***Trauma registry data show that 14% of the 525 injured patients were drivers under age 16.***
- Always wear a helmet. ***Of those with helmet use information recorded, 84% were not wearing a helmet at the time of the injury.***
- Do not carry passengers. ***18% of the injured were passengers of an ATV.***
- Do not use alcohol. ***23% of the injured either tested positive for alcohol or were suspected to have used alcohol at the time of the injury.***

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13

<b>7:30 AM – 9:00 AM</b>	<u>Registration</u>
<b>9:00 AM – 10:00 AM</b>	<u>Opening Session</u> Mark S. Johnson, MPA, Chief Section of Community Health & EMS Matt Anderson, EMS Unit Manager Section of Community Health & EMS
<b>10:00 AM – 10:30 AM</b>	BREAK
<b>10:30 AM – 12:00 PM</b>	<u>General Session</u> <u>Medical/Legal Aspects of EMS</u> Martin Nemiroff, MD Retired, U. S. Public Health Service
(Injury Prevention)	<u>Pedestrian Safety Projects</u> Ron Perkins, MPH President, Anchorage Safe Communities <u>Kid's Don't Float PFD Loaner Program</u> Tom Fazzini Injury Prevention Coordinator Maniilaq Health Corporation <u>Child Safety Seat Checks: Planning a Community Event</u> Sharron Lobaugh
<b>12:00 PM – 1:30 PM</b>	LUNCH <i>Safe Kids Luncheon</i> Martin Buser - Iditarod Stories Sponsored by Providence Hospital Top of the World – Hilton Hotel  <i>EMS Instructors' Luncheon</i> Sponsored by Alaska Regional Hospital
<b>1:30 PM – 3:00 PM</b> (BLS Track)	<u>Grief and Loss: How to talk to the family</u> Caren Schaab, ANP and Peggy McMahon, RN Community Health Aide Program Alaska Native Medical Center
(BLS Track)	<u>The Role of the Medical Examiner</u> Michael Propst, MD Chief Medical Examiner, State of Alaska
(BLS Track)	<u>BTLS Access Instructor Class</u> Brian Davis, EMT-III
(BLS/ALS Track)	<u>"Prehospital Pediatric Assessment: A Systematic Approach"</u> Paul Werfel, NREMT-P
(BLS/ALS Track)	<u>Cold Water Near Drowning</u> Martin Nemiroff, MD
(Injury Prevention)	<u>Dogbite Prevention: Working with the Community</u> Ward Jones Injury Prevention Coordinator Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation <u>Responsible Dog Ownership</u> Martin Buser, Iditarod Champion
<b>3:00 PM – 3:30 PM</b>	BREAK

## 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

(BLS Track)	<u>BTLS Access Instructor Class, cont'</u> Brian Davis, EMT-III
(BLS Track)	<u>Crime Scene Management</u> Paul Burke, First Sargent Alaska State Troopers
(BLS Track)	<u>Burnout: Taking Care of Yourself</u> Caren Schaab, ANP and Peggy McMahon, RN
(BLS/ALS Track)	<u>Just a Gut Feeling</u> Paul Werfel, NREMT-P
(BLS/ALS Track)	<u>Case Studies in Behavioral Emergencies</u> John Battaglia, MD Alaska Psychiatric Institute
(Injury Prevention)	<u>Implementing a Kids Don't Float Education Program</u> Sue Hargis Recreational Boating Safety Affairs Specialist, U. S. Coast Guard <u>Evaluation of the Tanana Chiefs Conference PFD Program</u> Mike Keiffer Injury Prevention Coordinator Tanana Chiefs Conference

## CLINICAL TRACK

<b>8:00 AM - 10:00 AM</b>	<u>Literature Review of Extremity Trauma</u> Bill Mallon, MD Residency Director, Emergency Medicine Department, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA
<b>10:00 AM - 10:30 AM</b>	BREAK
<b>10:30 AM - 12:00 PM</b>	<u>General Session</u> <u>Medical/Legal Aspects of EMS</u> Martin Nemiroff, MD
<b>12:00 PM - 1:00 PM</b>	<u>LUNCH</u>
<b>1:00 PM - 2:00 PM</b>	<u>Frostbite: Acute Management</u> Ken Zafren, MD Emergency Physician, Anchorage, AK
<b>2:00 PM - 3:00 PM</b>	<u>Ophthalmologic Emergencies</u> Mark DeBard, MD Board of Directors, American College of Emergency Physicians, Dayton, Ohio
<b>3:00 PM - 3:30 PM</b>	BREAK
<b>3:30 PM - 4:30 PM</b>	<u>Diving Injuries: Basic Principles, Problems, Evaluation, and Treatment</u> Mark Tucillo, MD Family Practice, Petersburg, AK
<b>5:00 PM</b>	ACEP DINNER Location: TBA

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

**8:30 AM – 10:00 AM**  
(BLS Track)

*“The Community Health Aide Program: Who, What, Where, Why, How”*

Sharon Peabody, FPN  
ANMC- Community Health Aide Program

(BLS/ALS Track)

*Trauma Update for Rural Alaska*

Frank Sacco, MD  
Alaska Native Medical Center

(BLS/ALS Track)

*ECG Case Studies*

James Gaines, MICP  
Aurora North Academy

(Instructor Track)

*The Design and Use of Scenarios in the EMS Classroom*

Paul Werfel, NREMT-P

(Management Track)

*The Art of Grant Writing*

Ruth DeCamp

(Injury Prevention)

*Occupational Injuries among Alaska's Youth*

Deborah Choromanski  
Occupational Injury Program  
Alaska DHSS  
Brad Husberg  
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

**10:00 AM – 10:30 AM**

BREAK

**10:30 AM – 12:00 PM**  
(BLS Track)

*ASK Protocol: Assessing Suicide Risk*

Robert Painter, MICP, Assist Chief,  
Homer VFD  
Sharron Lobaugh, MS, MEd

(BLS/ALS Track)

*Sexual Assault Response*

Colleen James, RN  
South Peninsula Hospital

(BLS/ALS Track)

*Severe Head Injury Guidelines*

Timothy Cohen, MD  
Anchorage Neurosurgical Associates

(BLS/ALS Track)

*Pediatric Trauma: “Pearls for the Prehospital Provider”*

Paul Werfel, NREMT-P

(Injury Prevention)

*Bicycle Safety: What Parents Should Know*

Judy Murphy  
Juneau Freewheelers

**12:00 PM – 1:30 PM**

LUNCH

**1:30 PM – 3:00 PM**  
(BLS Track)

*The Secret of Caring for Your Patient*

Debby Hassel, NREMT-P  
Division Chief, Fairbanks Fire Department

(BLS Track)

*De-escalating a Violent Situation*

Edward Goodson  
Alaska Psychiatric Institute

(Injury Prevention)

*Teen Driving: Graduated Licensing, Impacting the Legislature, and Parents' Rights and Responsibilities*

Joan Diamond, RN  
Health Education, Municipality of Anchorage  
Martha Moore  
Trauma Registry Coordinator, Alaska DHSS

**1:30 PM**

*Skills Competition*

**7:15 PM**

*No Host Cocktails*

**8:00 PM**

*EMS Awards Banquet*

### CLINICAL TRACK

**8:00 AM - 9:00 AM**

*Atrial Fibrillation: Recent Advances in Emergency Care*

Dave Sonneborn, MD  
Cardiologist, Anchorage, AK

**9:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

*Acute Management of Orthopedic Polytrauma with focus on Pelvic Trauma*

Bret Mason, DO  
Orthopedic Surgeon, Anchorage, AK

**10:00 AM - 10:30 AM**

BREAK

**10:30 AM - 11:30 PM**

*Filmless Cameras in the ED: Medical Digital Photography*

Mark DeBard, MD

**11:30 PM - 1:00 PM**

LUNCH

**1:00 PM - 2:00 PM**

*EMS Literature Review of the Past 10 Years*

Bill Mallon, MD

**2:00 PM - 3:00 PM**

*Common Drug Interactions in the Emergency Department*

TBA  
Sponsored by Pfizer Pharmaceuticals

**3:00 PM - 3:15 PM**

BREAK

**3:15 PM - 4:15 PM**

TBA

## Comings and Goings



The Alaska EMS system has been shaped by many hands over the years. During the last six months, several individuals who made significant contributions to the system have left or are planning to leave in the near future, several have been promoted, and several others have either moved to Alaska to join our system or have been lured out of retirement.

**Craig R. Lewis**, Executive Director of Interior Region EMS Council, Inc., has accepted an exciting new position in the state of Washington and will be relocating from Alaska later this year. **Leo Zeek**, MICP, currently the Deputy Director of IREMSC, Inc., will delay his second retirement to serve as the Acting Executive Director until a permanent replacement is found. **Dave Rockney**, MICP, a long time paramedic from the Fairbanks Fire Department, replaces Leo as the Regional EMS Training Coordinator.

**Edna Hill**, RN, MICP, left Southern Region EMS Council earlier this year after making significant contributions to regional and state EMS programs. **Jodi Zufelt**, MICP, was promoted to the position of Regional EMS Training Coordinator.

**Colleen Karnofsky**, EMT-III, has retired from EMS in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough after a distinguished career as an EMT and EMT Instructor. Colleen was trained as an EMT in the mid-70s and was initially certified by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians on May 10, 1977.

**Bill Kriegsman**, RN, MICP, left Ketchikan Fire Department, where he served as the EMS Captain. His other duties included fashion advisor to the Annual Southeast Symposium Conehead Quiz and, for the past several years, he served as President of the Board of Southeast Region EMS Council, Inc. Bill will be attending medical school. He is replaced (in his capacity as EMS Captain) by **Jeff Switzer**, NREMT-P, who joins us from Wyoming.

**Janette McArthur**, EMS Coordinator for Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation, is returning to Texas after years of helping to improve EMS at the local, subregional, regional and state levels.

**Lilly Muir-Delany** resigned from Copper River Emergency Medical Services Council to serve as a dispatcher for the Alaska State Troopers, in Anchorage.

**Jim Gaines**, MICP, has resigned from the EMS Department of the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation to become the Advanced Education Coordinator for Aurora

North Emergency Services Academy, in Anchorage.

**Tim Everson**, who served as Executive Director of Southeast Region EMS Council, Inc., since 1994, is leaving Alaska to focus his formidable financial skills on new projects. **Bobbi Leichty**, MICP, of Craig, will serve as the Interim Executive Director. **Rob Janik**, NREMT-P, formerly of Cleveland, Ohio, has joined the SEREMS team as an EMS Trainer.

**Scott Dull, M.D.**, from Anchorage, has accepted a contract with the State EMS Program to serve as State EMS Medical Co-Director with **David Ingraham, M.D.**, also from Anchorage.

We are sure there are other “transitions” of which we are unaware. To those who have left, thank you for your contributions. An entire issue of a newsletter wouldn’t provide space to adequately describe all of your contributions. To those who have recently joined (or rejoined) EMS in Alaska, welcome. To those who have been promoted within the system, congratulations.

*Matt Anderson, EMS Unit Manager*



## New Automated External Defibrillation Legislation

On August 12<sup>th</sup>, a bill became law which effectively authorizes public access defibrillation in Alaska. House Bill 395, which was introduced during the 1998 legislative session by Representative Con Bunde, redefines the use of an automated external defibrillator as a basic life support skill and provides, through the Good Samaritan Law (AS 09.65.090), some immunity from civil liability to properly trained personnel, who use AEDs in a resuscitation attempt, and who activate the EMS system.

In 1987, Alaska became one of the first states to allow automated external defibrillators to be used by persons trained as “first responders” (Emergency Trauma Technicians). Since that time, many innovative and successful AED programs have been established in Alaska, including those at Anchorage International Airport, the Anchorage Fire Department, the North Slope Borough, and others. Through the efforts of Rose Marie Citti, of Anchorage and others who testified on behalf of this bill, this lifesaving technology may become more widely available in Alaska.

The new law has three major effects. First, it states that a person who uses an automated external defibrillator to treat

another person in cardiac arrest is not liable for civil damages as a result of an act or omission in treating the other person if the person using the AED was properly trained to use the device and activates the EMS system by notifying the appropriate emergency medical services agency for that area.

Second, it defines “properly trained” as meaning that the individual has completed an automated external defibrillator training course from the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, or another course approved by the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS). DHSS staff have reviewed the AED training programs conducted by EMP-America (Medic First Aid®) and has approved its AED program as having met the definition of “properly trained” found in statute.

Lastly, this new legislation inserts the word “manual” before “defibrillation” in the statutory definition of “advanced life support” (AS 18.08.090) which clarifies that manual defibrillation continues to be defined as an advanced life support skill.

We encourage readers to download the “Good Samaritan Law,” as amended by House Bill 395, from our web site ([http://hss.state.ak.us/dph/ems/ems\\_home.htm](http://hss.state.ak.us/dph/ems/ems_home.htm)). The site also includes more detailed information on the implementation of House Bill 395, as well as a file containing the **Aviation Medical Assistance Act of 1998**, which provides some immunity from liability to individuals who provide emergency care, including defibrillation, on aircraft.

A defibrillator technician who is currently certified to use an AED may continue to do so until his or her defibrillator technician certification expires. At that time, to continue to be authorized to use an AED, the person must complete another AED program approved by: the Department of Health and Social Services (e.g. those taught by EMT-I Instructors, EMT-III Instructors, and EMP-America); or the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross.

House bill 395 has the potential to greatly expand the number of individuals authorized to use automated external defibrillators. EMTs and Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics must be prepared to deal with cardiac arrest patients who have been treated with AEDs prior to their arrival. House bill 395 and regulations forthcoming from the Department of Health and Social Services, which deal with AEDs, are likely to provide answers to most questions related to AED training and use. However, questions remain about how AEDs fit best into rural EMS systems where there are significant impediments to acquiring links in the “Chain of Survival.” Issues such as the frequency of cardiac arrests, the availability of advanced cardiac life support, the ability to rapidly access the EMS system, and times for response and transport to a medical facility all play a role in survivability of out of hospital cardiac arrest. There are very interesting studies being published on these issues and important organizations, such as the National Association of State EMS Directors and the National Association of EMS Physicians, have issued position statements which provide significant context for the implementation of this new technology. Lastly, rapid increases in technology and other changes resulting from the explosive growth of the AED market make it es-

sential that those involved in AED purchases, deployment, and oversight remain informed. AED use in pediatric cardiac arrest, monophasic vs. biphasic wave forms, and the appropriateness of the use of AEDs in traumatic cardiac arrest are all areas of intense interest and debate. We expect that a great deal of new information, resulting from well conducted studies, will become available over the next few years. All of us involved in AED use: responders; educators; administrators; and physicians share the responsibility of using this information to help improve the outcomes of witnessed out-of-hospital cardiac arrest patients in Alaska.

For additional information, you should contact your nearest EMS Instructor, Regional EMS Office, or the State EMS Unit.

*Matt Anderson, EMS Unit Manager*

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## Injury Prevention News

### **Kid's Don't Float; Give them something that will**

Imagine what went through 10 year-old Radar Lambert's mind when he heard the screams and saw Pamela Smith, age 12, go under twice and be swept out into Kotzebue's icy waters. Neither Radar nor Pamela were swimmers but Radar did what he knew he could do in this emergency, he put on one of the personal flotation devices (PFD), available on shore from the Kids Don't Float program, and swam out to save her.

“The rescue was a tough one for him,” according to Tom Fazzinni, Manillaq Injury Prevention Program Manager, “but when this shy young player told me about it at ball practice, I was so excited, I just couldn't sleep that night.”

The good news quickly spread to others who have helped make this program possible. Sharron Lobaugh and Martha Moore, of the State Community Health & EMS Section, and Sue Hargis, of the U. S. Coast Guard, are really glad that Kids Don't Float, a local project originating in Homer, has now been implemented in over 200 Alaskan communities. PFD availability can really make a difference. Just ask Radar and Pamela.

### **Anchorage Playgrounds Receive Recognition**

Another success story surfaced this week. According to a nation wide survey of 760 playgrounds in 24 states and Washington DC, conducted by the Consumer Federation of America, “while serious hazards remain in most playgrounds....Anchorage Alaska is home to some of the safest playgrounds in the Nation.” Congratulations again to Cate Remme, AKPIRG and the school and civic leaders in Anchorage who put the issue of playground safety on the ballot a few years ago.



**Interior Region**

Craig Lewis  
Executive Director  
Interior Region EMS  
Council, Inc.  
3522 Industrial Ave.  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
907/456-3978

Bill Schechter  
Emergency Manager  
Fairbanks North Star  
Borough  
P.O. Box 71267  
Fairbanks, AK 99709  
907/459-1219

Chuck Surface  
EMS Coordinator/Instructor  
Tanana Chiefs  
Conference, Inc.  
1302 21st Avenue  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
907/459-3930

**North Slope Borough  
Region**

Gary Judd  
Regional EMS Coordinator  
North Slope Borough  
P.O. Box 69  
Barrow, AK 99723  
907/852-0234

**Northwest Arctic  
Borough Region**

Aggie Lie, EMS Director  
Maniilaq Association  
P.O. Box 43  
Kotzebue, AK 99752

**Norton Sound Region**

Mike Owens, EMS Director  
Norton Sound Health Corp.  
P.O. Box 966  
Nome, AK 99762  
907/443-3311

**Southeast Region**

Executive Director  
Southeast Region EMS Council, Inc.  
P. O. Box 269  
Sitka, AK 99835  
907/747-8005

Mike Motti, EMS Coordinator  
S.E. Alaska Regional Health  
Consortium  
222 Tongass Drive  
Sitka, AK 99835  
907/966-8771

Rachael Askren, EMS Coordinator  
Metlakatla Indian Community  
P.O. Box 8  
Metlakatla, Alaska 99926  
907/886-4741

**Southern Region**

Ronni Sullivan  
President/Executive Director  
Southern Region EMS Council, Inc.  
6130 Tuttle Place  
Anchorage, AK 99507  
907/562-6449

**Aleutian/Pribilof Island****Sub-Area - East**

Donald Johnstone  
Executive Director  
Eastern Aleutian Tribes, Inc.  
721 Sesame Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
907/563-1414

**Aleutian/Pribilof Island****Sub-Area - West**

Harriet Cutshall, EMS Liaison  
Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Assoc.  
401 E. Fireweed Lane, Ste. 201  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
907/276-2700

**Anchorage Sub-Area**

Frank Nolan, MICP  
Battalion Chief of EMS Training  
Anchorage Regional Fire  
Training Center  
1140 Airport Heights Road  
Anchorage, AK 99508  
907/279-5002

**Bristol Bay Sub-Area**

EMS Coordinator  
Bristol Bay Area Health Corp.  
P.O. Box 130  
Dillingham, Alaska 99576  
907/842-5201

**Copper River Sub-Area**

Administrator  
Copper River EMS Council  
P.O. Box 529  
Glennallen, Alaska 99588  
907/822-3671

**Kenai Peninsula Sub-Area**

Sue Hecks, EMS Coordinator  
Kenai Peninsula EMS Council  
P. O. Box 215  
Seldovia, AK 99663  
907/234-8900

**Kodiak Sub-Area**

Teresa Stone, EMS Coordinator  
Kodiak Area Native Association  
3449 Rezanof Drive East  
Kodiak, Alaska 99615  
907/486-9827

**Matanuska-Susitna Sub-Area**

Mel Vostry, EMS Coordinator  
Mat-Su Borough  
680 N. Seward Meridian Parkway  
Wasilla, Alaska 99654  
907/373-8800

**Prince William Sound  
Sub-Area**

Skip Richards, EMS Coordinator  
Chugachmuit  
4252 Hohe Street, Suite B  
Homer, Alaska 99603  
907/235-0577

**Yukon-Kuskokwim Region**

Donn A. Bennice  
Director of Village Operations  
Yukon-Kuskokwim Health  
Corporation  
P.O. Box 528  
Bethel, Alaska 99559  
907/543-6145